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CIA's Salvador policy criticized

By Gary Clausius
Reporter Staff Writer

U.S. government policies in El Salvador are frighteningly reminiscent of those used in Vietnam says former CIA employee Ralph McGhee.

"I found in Vietnam that the CIA was creating an illusion and selling it to the American people. They were dealing in 'black operations,' forging documents and sending weapons and telling the people that they were simply defending democracy. The same thing is happening in Central America today.

"The CIA is not now, and never has been a central intelligence agency. It is a covert action arm of the United States government to support or overthrow other governments. We have seen it in Nicaragua, Cuba, Iran and Libya, in all hemispheres of the world."

McGhee was in Fond du Lac Friday along with Victor Rubio, a spokesperson for the Democratic Revolutionary Front of El Salvador, for a 1:30 p.m. lecture at the Labor Temple.

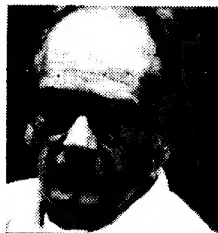
McGhee, author of a book about CIA policy called "Deadly Deceit," said that all of the actions which drew the U.S. into the Vietnam war are being practiced in Central America. "First we sent advisors, then weapons and finally we

sent troops. This same thing is happening again."

He said that he first became disillusioned with the CIA in 1967. "I was working in Thailand and discovered that the Communists there were 1,000 times bigger than what the U.S. government said, I have names and documents to prove it. But the government refused to



VICTOR
RUBIO



RALPH
MCGHEE

disclose it. I found out they wouldn't let me tell the truth. This prompted me to reassess things. The agency refused to admit reality. I left because I didn't agree with them."

He said the U.S. government and CIA are deceiving the American people. "One constant in all of this is that they have to convince the American people of

their policy. One way they do it is to forge documents. The CIA said the leader of one Communist wing in Central America was talking with Communist leaders in other countries for military aid. They said they had his diary to prove it. There was one thing wrong with the diary. It was written in three different handwritings. The Wall Street Journal disclosed it as a fake."

McGhee says that the people of El Salvador, not a minority government, should choose the country's destiny. However, he doesn't believe in government sponsored elections. "It is mandatory for the people to vote. If they don't they become enemies of the government. President Reagan says we're sponsoring Democracy in El Salvador in the case of the elections. The CIA has been intimately involved in the elections. They don't believe in Democracy, just in our government's image."

According to McGhee the U.S. government fails to see the real nature of problems in El Salvador. "All objective observers, including the Catholic Church, say that abysmal poverty that has made life an abomination there is the real problem. Our government claims the problem is Communism."